THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) The number of cases reported disposed of by the Supreme Court in the last three years and upto 31.7.2007 is as follows:

Year	2004	2005	2006	2007 (Upto 31.7.2007)
Disposal	55,530	46,210	56,540	35,813

The Registries of the High Courts have been requested to furnish the required information on the number of cases disposed of by them and in the lower courts under their jurisdiction.

(b) Time taken for disposal of pending cases is a matter within the exclusive domain of the judiciary. However, the Government has taken the following steps, inter-alia, to facilitate speedy disposal of cases including pending cases in the courts :-

- Reviewing the Judge strength in High Courts from time to time and promptly filling the vacancies.
- The term of 1562 Fast Track Courts, which were functional in the States as on 31.3.2005, has been extended for another five years *i.e.* upto 31.3.2010.
- With a view to ensuring expeditious disposal of civil cases, the Code of Civil Procedure has been amended, *inter-alia,* limiting the number of adjournments, which can be granted to a party, to three.
- With a view to. ensuring speedy disposal of criminal cases, appropriate changes have been made in the Code of Criminal Procedure through Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Act, 2005, *inter-alia,* introducing the concept of plea bargaining.
- Modernization of the judicial infrastructure through computerization of courts.

Provisions regarding age of minors

†2200. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are different provisions regarding age of minors in various laws of the country; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken or proposed to be taken by Government to avoid disputes and confusions arising out of it?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) The infonnation is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.